METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION OR SERVICES BY TOUCHING HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS ON PHYSICAL DOCUMENTS

Abstract

The present invention discloses a system and method for selecting and accessing multimedia information and/or services located on a user workstation or on one or a plurality of servers connected to a communication network simply by touching with a finger items (word, letter, symbol, picture, icon, ...) that are electronically illuminated over the surface of a hard-copy document or any other physical surface. The system includes:

- an opto-touch foil preferably transparent, placed by the user over (or under) the document (or a portion of said document). This opto-touch foil is used :
  - to illuminate and highlight hyperlinked items over the surface of the physical document (or portion of the document), and
  - to read coordinates of these hyperlinked items,
- an user workstation for accessing the information and/or the service associated with the hyperlinked items.

For identifying and selecting said hyperlinked items, these hyperlinked items are automatically illuminated by a luminous signal (or light spot) generated by the opto-touch foil. The opto-touch foil operates under the control of the user workstation. Illuminated items are selected by pressing the opto-touch foil. When the user selects an item among all illuminated items, the user workstation receives from the opto-touch foil a signal indicating the position of this selected item. The user workstation identifies and locates referring to a hyperlink table the information and/or the service associated with the position of the selected item. If the information and/or

service is located in a remote server, a request is sent to this server. If the information and/or the service is stored in the user workstation, then this information and/or service is accessed locally.

Figure 5